



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 17, 2003

CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
MARVIN SMILON, HERBERT HADAD  
MICHAEL KULSTAD  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 637-2600

**U.S. EXPANDS CHARGES AGAINST GAMBINO CRIME FAMILY  
MEMBERS TO INCLUDE 1998 MURDER OF FRANK HYDELL**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York and KEVIN P. DONOVAN, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the FBI announced today the unsealing of a Superseding Indictment against six Members and Associates of the Gambino Organized Crime Family of La Cosa Nostra ("LCN"), with wide-ranging racketeering crimes and other offenses, including three murders, the extortion of various individuals and businesses, loan sharking, bribery, witness tampering, and illegal gambling.

Four of the defendants, LOUIS "Big Louie" VALLARIO and MICHAEL "Mikey Scars" DiLEONARDO, both "Capos" or captains in the Gambino Family, and FRANK "Frankie Fap" FAPPIANO and EDWARD "Cousin Eddie" GARAFOLA, both Soldiers in the Gambino Family, were charged and arrested in June 2002 in a prior Indictment charging them with two murders, extortion, loan sharking, bribery, witness tampering, and illegal gambling.

The Superseding Indictment unsealed today charges two additional defendants, THOMAS "Huck" CARBONARO, a Soldier in the Gambino Family, and JOHN MATERA, an Associate in the Gambino Family, with, among other things, murdering an individual they suspected of cooperating with the Government. The Superseding Indictment alleges that CARBONARO and MATERA participated in the murder of Frank Hydell, who was killed outside of a club in Staten Island in the early morning hours of April 28, 1998. It was alleged Hydell was murdered because CARBONARO, MATERA, and other Members and Associates of the Gambino Family believed that Hydell might be cooperating with the Government. The Superseding Indictment alleges that CARBONARO and MATERA participated in the murder in order to prevent Hydell from cooperating with law enforcement officers.

In addition to the murder of Hydell, CARBONARO is also charged with participating in several other racketeering activities of the Gambino Family, including the extortion of various construction industry businesses and loansharking.

The Superseding Indictment includes the racketeering charges that had been alleged against VALLARIO, DiLEONARDO, FAPPIANO, and GARAFOLA in the prior Indictment returned in June 2002. Those racketeering charges include allegations that VALLARIO, DiLEONARDO, FAPPIANO, and GARAFOLA engaged in a widespread pattern of racketeering, including the September 1989 murder of Frederick Weiss. In prior court proceedings, the

Government has alleged that Members and Associates of the Decavalcante Organized Crime Family of LCN, acting in concert with Members and Associates of the Gambino Family, had murdered Weiss as a "favor" to the then-Boss of the Gambino Family, John Gotti, who feared that Weiss was cooperating with the Government against high-ranking members of the Gambino Family. To date, seven Members and Associates of the Decavalcante Family have been charged for their roles in the Weiss murder; five have been convicted and the two remaining defendants await trial (including one, Decavalcante Capo Phil Abramo, whose trial is set to start this Monday, April 21).

When VALLARIO, DiLEONARDO, FAPPIANO, and GARFOLA had been arrested on the prior Indictment in June 2002, that had represented the first time that members of the Gambino Family had also been charged with their participation in the murder of Weiss. The Superseding Indictment unsealed today also includes the allegations made in the prior Indictment that FAPPIANO had ordered and directed Associates of the Gambino Family to physically assault and seriously injure a union official named Frank Parasole. The assault of Parasole had resulted in Parasole's death in January 1997.

If convicted of the charges, VALLARIO, DiLEONARDO, FAPPIANO, and GARAFOLA face life sentences. If convicted of the

murder of Hydell, CARBONARO and MATERA could face the death penalty.

VALLARIO, DiLEONARDO, FAPPIANO, and GARAFOLA were arrested on the prior Indictment in June 2002. They were denied bail and are in federal custody pending trial. CARBONARO was arrested this morning and will be presented on the Superseding Indictment later today in Federal Court in Manhattan. MATERA is currently serving a federal sentence on unrelated charges and will be brought to New York to face the charges.

The case is assigned to United States District Judge RICHARD CONWAY CASEY.

Mr. COMEY praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York City Police Department in this investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys JOHN M. HILLEBRECHT, MICHAEL G. McGOVERN, and JOON H. KIM are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Superseding Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

03-91

###